

Little Rock Master Plan For Children, Youth, and Families

In February 2015, the City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs embarked on a process to develop a three-year Master Plan to help set the trajectory for Little Rock's children, youth and families for the short and long term. This critical effort will take into account national best practices but integrate local needs and realities across all areas of our City. It also will integrate the Commission for Children, Youth and Families' mission to help guide programs and services for Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) funded programs and will help ensure that all of Little Rock's youth can grow into caring, contributing adults.

Between February and October 2015, the City is working with a consultant team (Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC, Philander Smith College's Social Justice Institute, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation) on a multi-pronged approach to develop the Master Plan.

This plan includes the following components:

1. A team of individuals from the City of Little Rock who will help guide the process and provide input from start to finish.
2. An advisory committee, comprised of a stakeholders from across the city, who will meet throughout the process to interpret findings, provide local perspective, make recommendations, and provide feedback on each of the activities outlined below. *For more information about who is on the advisory committee and their role, please see Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities handout.*
3. National best practices that will be aggregated from across the country to understand how other cities and states have implemented evidenced-based youth programs. Research may cover promising practices from communities who have implemented evidenced-based approaches with success and/or those with similar demographics and risk factors such as juvenile crime and low graduation rates.
4. An environmental scan that will be conducted to have a comprehensive understanding what programs and services currently exist in Little Rock, promising practices, gaps, and challenges.
5. Conversations from the Board of Directors that will help ensure that information gathered from each ward is representative of the whole community.
6. A community outreach effort that will engage community leaders, youth, and the general public to gather feedback on what outcomes are most important for the city's youth, which currently offered services/programs are most critical and most often used by youth, and what they wish was available for the city's youth. A youth engagement effort will test proposed ideas for the plan, brainstorm new ideas, and gather feedback from those directly affected by the plan.

A final Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families will be inclusive and representative of community feedback and finalized in fall 2015.

